the merchants and trading classes. As to the general amendment of rules, that will have to wait until such time as the revision of rules comes up for consideration. Meanwhile if I am correct in assuming that you have printed your statement, if you will kindly give me a copy of it, I shall have it examined.

13. A Munsiff-Magistrate's Court at Bhutapandy.

MR. ARUMUKHA PERUMAL PILLAI MATHEVAN PILLAI (*Member, Tovala taluk*) said that till recently there were no less than three Magistrates' courts in the Tovala taluk, one at Azhagiapandiapuram, one at Bhutapandy, and the third at Aramboly. But all these courts were abolished one after another and that in spite of protests from the people. It was more or less an admitted fact that there would be more criminal cases in rural parts than in towns and the people of Tovala with its vast rural areas were suffering much inconvenience for want of any criminal courts. The same was the case in regard to Munsiffs' courts. The people of Tovala had to go to distant Nagercoil for the smallest civil suits. It had to be remembered in this connection that unlike in British India there were no Village Munsiffs in Travancore who could deal with small disputes between villagers. The population of the Tovala taluk numbered nearly 40,000 and the number of civil cases arising in the taluk was by no means inconsiderable. In fact about a fourth of the total number of suits filed in the District Munsiff's court, Nagercoil, during the years 1099 to 1102 came from the Tovala taluk. In view of these circumstances the member suggested that a Munsiff-Magistrate's court might be established at Bhutapandy, or in the alternative, the old Magistrate's court might be restored. In case both these measures were impracticable, Village Panchayat courts might be established in the various villages of the taluk.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Arumukhaperumal Pillai Mathevan Pillai, you make a statement in your preliminary essay that it is a recognised fact that there is more crime in rural places than in towns. That is a very interesting proposition; and some day when you have a little time you will perhaps give me full information as to by whom that fact came to be recognised and how it is supported in respect of your taluk. I am merely seeking information.

In regard to more courts and nearer courts it seems to me that the people of the Tovala taluk do not believe in seeking justice and believe in justice seeking them at their very doors. I suppose you would like to have a court at every street corner. If I am not mistaken there are many buses running from Tovala to Nagercoil. However, since you gave notice of your intention to represent this matter, it has been referred to the High Court who, in turn, have called for statistics; and they will come to a definite conclusion and make their recommendation to Government.

You lament the fact that there are no Village Munsiffs in Travancore. Let me explain that for a greater part of Travancore, there are no villages; and consequently I do not see how Village Munsiffs can come into being. But I believe you have within easy reach of you Village Panchayat courts which are much the same thing.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 1·57 P. M. and met again at 3 P. M.

14. Judicial Institutions in the Kalkulam taluk.

MR. R. S. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Member, Kalkulam taluk, Group II*) in dealing with the judicial institutions in the Kalkulam taluk dwelt upon the urgent necessity for transferring one of the Munsiffs' courts at Padmanabhapuram to Eraniel. Eraniel was one of the busiest and one of the most populous centres in south Travancore and a substantial percentage of the cases in the courts at Padmanabhapuram came from Eraniel. But Padmanabhapuram was eight miles away, and the people of Eraniel had to go all the way to Padmanabhapuram to attend the courts there. Moreover one of the Munsiffs' courts at Padmanabhapuram was now housed in a rented building, whereas at Eraniel there were Sirkar buildings in which the court could be accommodated. If a Munsiffs' court was established at Eraniel, it would also give considerable relief to the present pressure of work in the courts at Padmanabhapuram. In case one of the courts could not be transferred from Padmanabhapuram to Eraniel, the member suggested that the jurisdiction of the courts might

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be revised, and at least the Alur pakuthi, which was now placed under the jurisdiction of the courts at Nagercoil, 6 miles away, might be transferred to the jurisdiction of the courts at Padmanabhapuram which was only 2 miles away.

The member next took up the question of extending the jurisdiction of the Village Panchayat and Bench Magistrates' courts at Padmanabhapuram. These courts were functioning quite well for the last nine years and the member saw no reason why their jurisdiction should not be extended. The District Magistrate, Trivandrum, had in his inspection notes of the 12th Makaram 1103 recorded the opinion that the question of extending the jurisdiction of the courts was worthy of consideration. The member suggested that as a tentative measure the jurisdiction of the courts might be extended over the pakuthies of Kalkulam and Tuckalai.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Subrahmanya Pillai, in regard to the question of transfer of one of the Munsiff's courts from Tuckalai to Eraniel, since the last communication of the 25th December, the High Court has been asked to look into the matter and they have expressed their willingness to consider your suggestion. Again, in connection with the general re-adjustment of the territorial jurisdiction of all civil courts in the State, the High Court is now taking up that subject for consideration.

In regard to extension of the jurisdiction of the Padmanabhapuram Village Panchayat court, the view taken by the High Court is that since this is a very young institution at present, it is necessary to wait and see how it establishes itself. In view of your representation, I shall have the matter once again placed before the High Court.

15. A Magistrate's court at Tiruvalla.

MR. K. N. NILAKANTA KYMAL (*Member, Tiruvalla taluk, Group I*) said that the establishment of a Magistrate's court at Tiruvalla was a question which had evoked much discussion both in the Assembly and elsewhere. It was a burning question for the people of Tiruvalla. It was not a correct impression that some people had gathered about this question, that the agitation was all from the vakils of Tiruvalla. Before the abolition of the old court at Tiruvalla, the public were never informed of it, and they were never given an opportunity to present their case. The member therefore urged that the old court might be restored or in the alternative that the additional Munsiff, Tiruvalla, might be invested with magisterial powers.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Nilakanta Kymal, I was inclined to think that a Magistrate's court at Tiruvalla was a flower that burst into bloom in the Spring *i. e.*, at the Assembly, every year. You will find that I had something to say about it at the 22nd and the 23rd sessions of the Assembly. And now I have got to say something again at the 24th session. But I can tell you this, that I have now discovered that it is not a mere seasonal blossom but that it is a hardy annual, blossoming right through the year. And during my recent visit to Tiruvalla I was not allowed to forget the question of a Magistrate's court, not for a moment of my stay there. Wherever I went I found 'Magistrate's Court' printed up all over the place. Whoever I saw spoke about the Magistrate's court. Therefore, it seems to me that it is a really felt want in Tiruvalla and that the people of Tiruvalla look upon it as a legitimate grievance. And what impressed me most was the universality with which the request was presented to me there. I first thought that we might consider the question of investing a Munsiff with magisterial powers. But that question has to wait until, as I told the last member, the High Court goes into the question of a general readjustment of territorial jurisdiction of all civil courts in the State which they have resolved to do. If that is going to take a long time I do not think it will be right to let this question of a Magistrate's court at Tiruvalla stand over until then ; and I shall induce the Chief Secretary, if inducement is necessary, to take up the question at once.

16. Reform of the Judicial department.

MR. N. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Member, Kottarakara taluk*) speaking about the reform of the judicial department, suggested that a competitive examination should be instituted as in Mysore for the recruitment of judicial officers whether

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